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lysis was undertaken with several similar names ; after which the author proceeded to a rapid scrutiny of names of baronies, townlands, and towns—noticing in particular, as wholly or partly of Norse derivation, *Rathgorman*, *Slaghtmanus*, and *Ballyvedra*, *alias Weatherstown*, near Waterford.—The last class of Irish names analysed was that of islands. Several instances were adduced of insular localities derivable from some one of the three Norse words for island—*ey*, *holm*, and *kalfr*—the distinctive meanings of which were explained. The name of a locality, in particular, off the south coast of Iceland, called “ Irishman’s Islands,” was explained from the sequel of the tradition of Leif, before cited.

The author closed his paper by recommending to the antiquary some attention to the neglected literature of the North, as a means not only of accumulating information, but of correcting error ; and concluded by adducing the following examples of error, corrected by a comparison of specimens found in different countries :—“ ‘ The short sword, or dagger,’ with which King, in his account of Richborough, has equipped a Roman bagpiper, would still maintain its belligerent masquerade, had not the discovery of a more perfect specimen in Scandinavia proved it to be the more appropriate appendage of a pipe ; and certain figures, published by Pennant, which were deified in Sweden, might have long enjoyed their sanctity, had not the subsequent discovery of more perfect specimens in Denmark desecrated them into—knife-handles.”

Dr. Anster, on the part of Dr. Luby, F.T.C.D., read a letter of the late Rev. Charles Wolfe, author of the lines on the burial of Sir John Moore. The letter, or rather fragment of a letter, had been found by Dr. Luby among the papers of a deceased brother, who was a college friend of Wolfe and of Mr. Taylor, to whom the letter was addressed.

The part found had the appearance of having been torn off from the rest of the letter. It contains the address; a complete copy of the ode; a sentence mentioning to Mr. Taylor that his praise of the stanzas first written led him to complete the poem; a few words of a private nature at the end of the letter; and the signature. There is no date on the part preserved; but the post-mark of September 6, 1816, fixes the time at which it was sent. Dr. Anster read passages from Captain Medwin's "Conversations of Lord Byron" and Archdeacon Russell's "Remains of Wolfe," in which mention is made of the various guesses as to the author, when the poem first appeared, without the author's name, in the newspapers and magazines. It was attributed to Moore, to Campbell, to Wilson, to Byron, and now and then to a writer in many respects equal to the highest of these names, whose poems have been published under the name of Barry Cornwall. Shelley thought the poem likely to be Campbell's; and Medwin believed Byron to be the author. When Medwin's book appeared in which this was stated, several friends of Wolfe's, among others Mr. Taylor, to whom was addressed the letter, of which an important part has been fortunately found, stated their knowledge of Wolfe's having written the ode. One gratifying result of the controversy was the publication, by Archdeacon Russell, of the *Remains of Charles Wolfe*, with a memoir written with great beauty, and, what constitutes the rare charm of the work, describing with entire fidelity the character, and habits, and feelings of one of the most pureminded, generous, and affectionate natures that ever existed.

The question as to the authorship of the ode was for ever set at rest to any one who had seen either the letters of Mr. Wolfe's friends, at the time of Captain Medwin's publication, or Archdeacon Russell's book. Were there any doubt on the subject of authorship, the document now produced would completely remove it; but for this purpose it would really not be

worth while to trouble the Academy with the communication, as it would be treating the insane pretensions, now and then put forward in the newspapers for this person or the other, with too much respect to discuss them seriously, or at all; but another and a very important purpose would be answered by the publication of this *authentic* copy of the poem, from Wolfe's *autograph*, in their Proceedings. The poem has been more frequently reprinted than almost any other in the language; and, an almost necessary consequence of such frequent reprints, it is now seldom printed as it was originally written. Every person who has had occasion to compare the common editions of Milton, or Cowper, or any of our poets, with those printed in the life-time of the authors, is aware that no dependence whatever can be placed on the text of the books in common use. Every successive reprint from a volume, carelessly edited, adds its own stock of blunders to the general mass. Wolfe's ode has been, in this way, quite spoiled in many of its best passages. The Academy had now the opportunity of correcting these mistakes by publishing an authentic copy of the poem. Dr. Anster stated the fitness of this being done by the Academy, not only from its being the natural and proper guardian of every thing relating to the literature of Ireland,—which alone would seem to him a sufficient reason,—but even yet more, from the circumstance, that the Academy's Proceedings must command a circulation over the Continent, which it would be in vain to expect for any private publication. The poem has been often translated; and the strange blunders which have got into our copies are faithfully preserved in the translations. In a German translation of the ode, three stanzas of a poem, consisting of but eight, are spoiled by the translator's manifestly having read an imperfect copy of the original. In one it is quite plain that the stanza, which closes with the lines—

“ And we heard the distant and random gun
That the foe was sullenly firing,”

and in which the word "suddenly" is often substituted for "sullenly," was printed falsely in the copy before the German translator. In the second stanza, "The *struggling* moonbeam's misty light," is lost probably from some similar reason. The general effect of Wolfe's poem is exceedingly well preserved in the translation; but there are several mistakes in detail, most of which, perhaps all, arise from the translator's having used an incorrect copy of the original. The translation is printed in the *octavo* edition of "Hayward's Faust," p. 304.

The Rev. Dr. Todd, V.P., having taken the Chair, Professor Lloyd read a supplement to his paper, "On the Mutual Action of Permanent Magnets in an Observatory," printed in the Transactions, Vol. XIX. p. 159.

This supplement was immediately printed in the same volume of the Transactions.

May 10.

Sir WM. R. HAMILTON, LL.D., President, in the Chair.

Oliver Sproule, Esq., and James Thompson, Esq., were elected Members of the Academy.

A note on some new Properties of Surfaces of the second Order, by John H. Jellett, Esq., F.T.C.D., was read.

I. Let the points on the focal conic, at which the tangent is parallel to the trace of the tangent plane, be considered analogous to foci.

II. Let the axis of the surface, perpendicular to the plane of the conic, be considered analogous to the conjugate axis; then, since the square of the distance from focus to centre, in a conic, is equal to the difference between the squares of the transverse and conjugate semi-axis, we may consider, as analogous to the transverse semi-axis, the line drawn to the ex-